GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1459
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Strengthening PDS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the PDS system in the country; and
(b) whether storage capacities need to be improved to ensure proper storage of procured foodgrains for PDS, if so, the details of actions taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a): For effective implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS), Government is implementing a Plan scheme on "End-to-end Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations". The component-I of the scheme comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, online allocation, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanisms. A present, 78.67% ration cards have been seeded with Aadhaar at the National level. Besides, Central Govt. has also asked States/UTs to opt for any of the two models of Direct Benefit Transfer − Cash transfer of food subsidy into the bank account of beneficiaries or Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation, which involves installation of Point of Sale (PoS) device at FPS, for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transactions. The cash transfer of food subsidy is being implemented in 3 UTs namely Chandigarh, Puducherry w.e.f. 1-9-2015 and partially in Dadra & Nagar Haveli w.e.f. 1-3-2016. So far, more than 2,45,706 FPSs are automated across the country.
(b) On the basis of peak stock requirement during procurement season, the overall storage capacity required in the country is about 600 lakh MT. Against this, the total capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for storage of foodgrains as on 30.06.2017 was 794.48 lakh MT. Thus there is sufficient capacity for storage of foodgrains in the country.
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